(a) what is the quantity of Annual Cotton Demand in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the total quantity of cotton produced in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that contractual obligation has been violated in this year by the cottton traders of Punjab and Maharashtra;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any legal action against them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Annual Demand for cotton in Tamil Nadu is in the range of 40 to 42 lakh bales of 170 Kg. each.

(b) The total quantity of cotton produced in Tamil Nadu during the last three years was as under:

Year	Production in lakh bales of 170 Kgs each
1991-92 . . .	5.75
1992-93 . . .	5.00
1993-94 . . .	5.50

(c) to (e) Mills' Association have been saying so. However, Since contractual obligation is between the buyers and the seller, they are expected to settle it within the legal frame-work.

Textile Agreement

143. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report appearing in Indian Express dated 4th January, 1995 under the caption "Textile pact is all noise and no cheer"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the market access negotiations as part of the Uruguay Round, the USA had been asking for market access for their own textile and clothing products in the Indian market. The negotiations have been concluded successfully and India has signed an agreement with the USA. The Agrrement provides significant additional market access in the USA, which are as follows:

(i) The current specific limit on Cat 369—0, comprising other cotton made—ups, has been removed It will provide a considerable additional incentive for handloom export as this category is used predominantly for the export of handloom made-ups;

(ii) The base levels for the categories 218 (Yarn Dyed Fabrics); 219 (Duck Fabrics); 313 (Cotton Sheeting); 342|642 (Cotton & MMS Skirts); 347|348) (Trousers|Slacks & Shorts) and Group II have been increased by 5 per cent.

(iii) Additional 5 per cent quotas have been given for 100 per cent cotton garments made of handloom Fabrics in categories 334|634 (Men and boys coats) and 351|651 (Pyjamas and nightwear).

(iv) In certain categories, additional flexiblities viz. Swing, Special Swings etc. have been provided.

(v) All outstanding issues relating to the expose of 'ghagras' have been resolved.

(vi) In order to accommodate some of the concerns of the USA, India has agreed to give a phased tariff liberalisation and limited market openings schedule for certain textile items at varying rates, for periods commencing from 3 to 7 years.

(vii) Almost all the news coverage and analysis of the Textile agreement in the media. In the various newspapers and magazines, including those which had gone to the depth of the issues, and the editorials were generally very positive and appreciative of the agreements and felt that these were in India's interest.

Requirement and production of yarn

144. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual requirement of yarn in the domestic market in our country during the last three years;

(b) what was the total production of yarn during the same period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of the yarn increased incessantly due to more export without considering the domestic demand;

(d) if not, whether the demand in the local market became very acute because of hoarding; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to unearth the boarding?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) The estimated consumption of cotton and other yarn during the last three years was as under:

(Consumption in MN.KG.)

Years	Cotton Yarn	Other Yarns (Filament yarn and other spun yarn)
1991-92 .	1325.83	631.13
1992-93 .	1384.84	663.35
1993-94 .	1464.91	794.20

(b) The production of cotton ar other yarns during the last thr years was as under:

(Production of yarn in MN.KC

Year	Cotton Yarn	Other Yarr (Filament ya and other sp yarn)
1991-92	1450.40	650.:
1992-93 .	1523.06	706.1
1993-94 .	1622.41	832.4

(c) No, Sir. The export quota i the current year has even been duced.

(d) and (e) There are not report hoarding of yarn. To ensure norm supply of cotton and cotton yarn t Government have taken followi steps:

(i) Prescribing the stock lim of cotton stock held by mills, T ders, Ginning and Pressing Un and initiating action against c faulters.

(ii) Directing the traders of ya to display the stocks and prices their premises.

(iii) Constant monitoring of t prices of yarn and cotton.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER —Contd.

12.00 NOON

THE LEADER OF THE HOU (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Sir, I h. great pleasure in introducing Minister, Shri Buta Singhji, in cha of Civil Supplies.

[**The Deputy Chairman** in Chair].